

**Highly Qualified Teachers by 2006-2007
Possible Extension Memorandum
May 15, 2006**

Despite the substantial progress many States are making in meeting the goal of having all core academic subject classes taught by highly qualified teachers (HQT) by the end of the 2005-06 school year, States are still facing difficulties in fully meeting this requirement. The United States Education Department (USED) has found that none of the States are likely to reach the goal of 100 percent HQT by the end of the 2005-06 school year. Therefore, the USED is requesting that each State submit a revised plan that details the actions the State and local education agencies will take to reach the HQT goal in 2006-07 and beyond.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR INDIANA:

The Indiana Department of Education (the Department) will submit a "Highly Qualified Teachers" plan to the USED on July 7, 2006. During the week of July 24-28th, the USED will assess the plan to determine whether it is sufficient to attain the HQT goal in 2006-07 and to maintain that goal in subsequent years. The Department will know after August 4th, as to whether or not the USED approved the plan.

WHAT THIS MEANS IF INDIANA'S HQT PLAN IS APPROVED:

If Indiana's HQT plan is approved, the State will receive a ONE year extension for teachers to become highly qualified by the end of 2006-07. We will not know until August of 2006 whether or not we have been granted an additional year. After August 2006, the USED will begin a new cycle of monitoring to ensure that States are implementing their revised plans. Local educational agencies should continue to work towards the goal of reaching highly qualified status by the end of the 2006-2007 school year.